



Geronimo Stilton























Geronimo Stilton
A learned and brainy
mouse; editor of
The Rodent's Gazette



Thea Stilton
Geronimo's sister and special correspondent at
The Rodent's Gazette



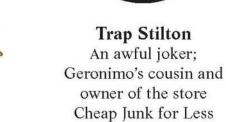






















Benjamin Stilton
A sweet and loving
nine-year-old mouse;
Geronimo's favorite
nephew









Geronimo Stilton

HUG A TREE, GERONIMO



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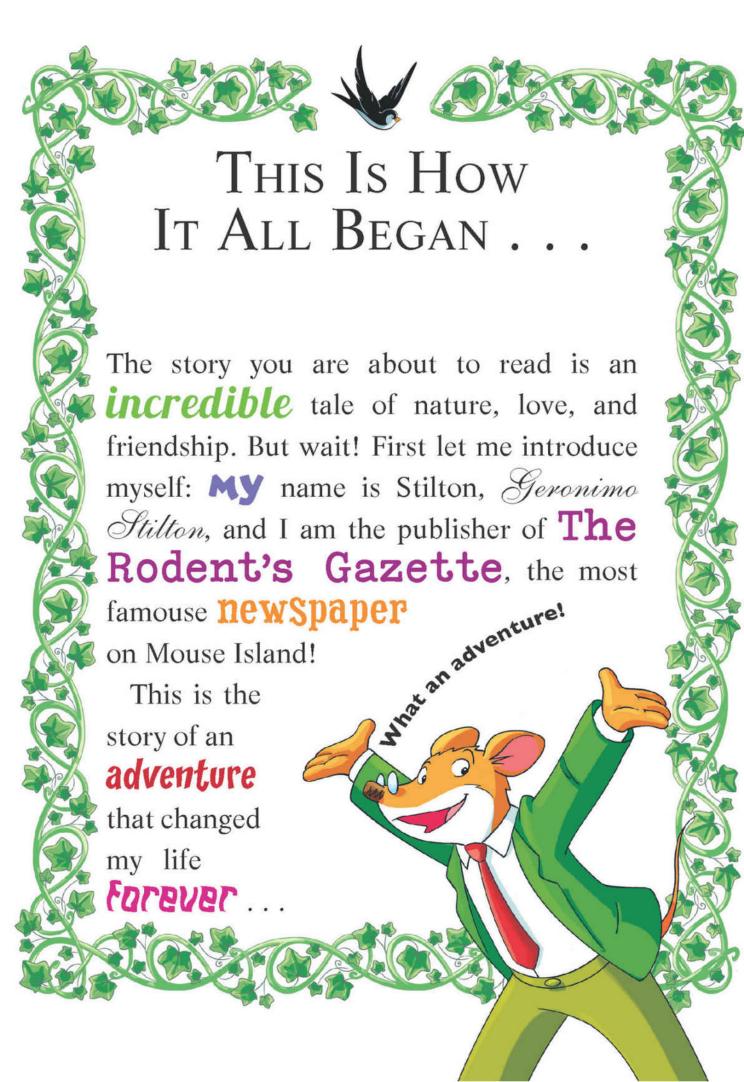
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As I pedaled through the streets of New Mouse City, I looked up at the beautiful blue sky peeking between the tall buildings, and I began to daydream.

Oh, how I wished I could head straight to the park! There, I would lie in the

grass, looking at the

clouds. I would listen to the birds

CHIRPING,

and I would smell the sweet spring flowers as I thought of ideas for my

next novel . . .

Ring! Ring!

My cell phone interrupted my reverie.

I answered the call.

"Grandson!" shouted my grandfather. "I know you're thinking of skipping

Grandson!

WORK today! I know you very well: every year when spring comes, your snout is P, looking at the clouds, and you neglect your work at the paper! But I know how to get you back on



"B-but, Grandfather,

I'm riding my bike to work at *The Rodent's Gazette* right now!" I argued.

"Aha, see?!" **Grandfather** barked back. "I was right! You're tooling around town on your bicycle instead of buckling down at the office to **WORK**, **WORK**, **WORK**! This is what happens to you every **SPRING!** Come on, Grandson!

"Get to the office right away! Chop, chop!

I want you here in **ten seconds**!"

"Ten seconds?!" I protested. "But that's imposs—"

He started counting down: "Ten . . . nine . . . eight . . ."

MOLDY MOZZARELLA! All I could do was pedal as quickly as possible. My grandfather could be so annoying!



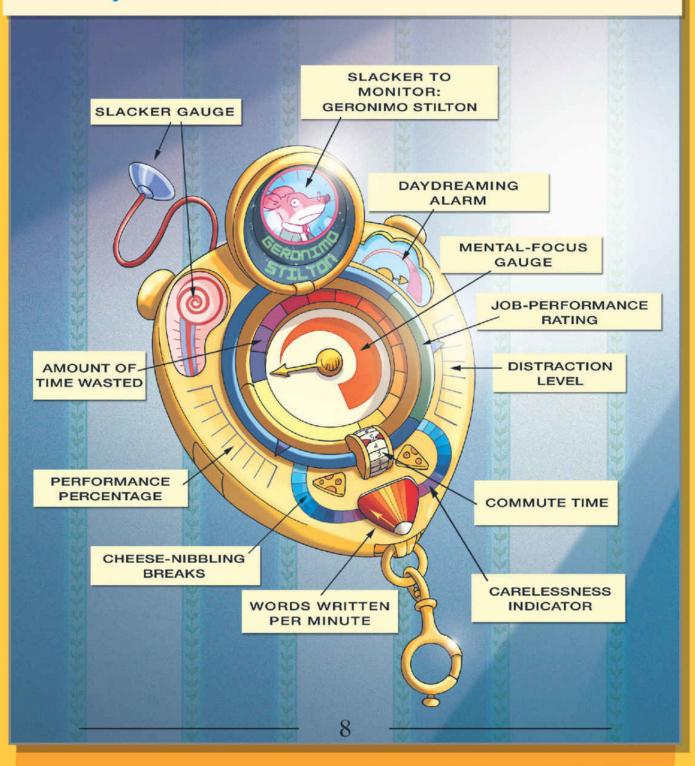
I arrived at the entrance to *The Rodent's Gazette*, panting. My tongue was hanging out.

"Three ... two ... one ... zero!"
Grandfather exclaimed. "Ah, there you are!
From now on, no more slacking off!
Thanks to this slacker alarm, I can keep track of everyone, especially you, Grandson!"
I groaned. Not the slacker alarm!



THE SLACKER ALARM

The slacker alarm is a very complicated tool that Grandfather William invented to keep track of slackers at The Rodent's Gazette (especially his grandson, Geronimo Stilton!).



"What a **mouserific** tool!" my grandfather muttered under his breath, smiling to himself. "Now let's talk about you, Geronimo. I know you haven't started writing your new book yet."

"B-but, Grandfather," I squeaked, "I can't write **on command**. I need inspiration! I need a fabumouse idea! I can't just write meaningless words."

"Stop making excuses!" my grandfather grumbled. "Sit down and start writing instead of daydreaming. And remember: that

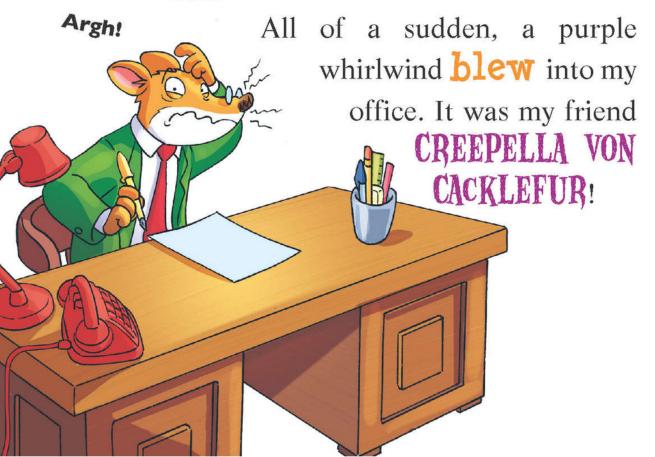




A BAD CASE OF WRITER'S BLOCK

I sat at my desk for **hours** and **hours**, trying to write my book. I tugged at my whiskers in **frustration**, but at the end of the day, the page was still **blank**. I had the worst case of writer's block!

Oh, how annoying!





She leaned on my desk and blew a thousand **KISSES** at me. You should know that Creepella likes to tell everymouse she's my girlfriend, but we're just friends!

"DARLING, today is the first day of spring," she squeaked. "What are you doing sitting in your office like a moldy mummy? Let's go for a walk in the park!"





Right then, my friend Hercule Poirat popped into my office.

"Gerrykins, I really need your help!" he squeaked. "You see, I'm trying to solve a really puzzzing mystery..."

I could hear the **Slacker alarm** buzzing from the hallway (my grandfather must have been **LINGERING** there!).

"BZZZZ! Geronimo Stilton has not started working yet," a mechanical voice said. "BZZZZ! He has not written a single word. BZZZZ! What a slacker!"

I shook my snout in frustration.

"MOLDY MOZZARELLA!" I exclaimed.
"Grandfather wants me to work,
CREEPELLA wants me to go for a walk in
the park, and Hercule wants me to solve a
mystery! All I want to do is write my novel!"

At that moment, my sister, Thea, and her friend Flora van der Plant burst into the office. Flora is an herbalist and an expert on medicinal plants and essential oils. She has her own natural beauty product and herbal tea company. Flora, Thea, and Creepella are good friends.

"What's wrong, Geronimo?"
my sister asked right away.
"Yes, you look terrible!"
Flora added sympathetically.
"Nothing!" I replied,
exasperated. "I'm just
trying to write! But

These three mice are a special group of friends who are also journalists! Thea Stilton is a correspondent for The Rodent's Gazette. She travels the world seeking adventures and the latest fabumouse stories. Creepella von Cacklefur writes for The Shivery News in Mysterious Valley. And Flora van der Plant writes "Dear Flora," an herbalist advice column that appears in The Rodent's Gazette. She talks (and writes) about plants as if they're her friends!



Grandfather is keeping track of me with the slacker alarm, Hercule needs help solving a mystery, and Creepella is trying to get me to take a break and go walk in the park!"

"Poor Gerryberry!" Thea teased.

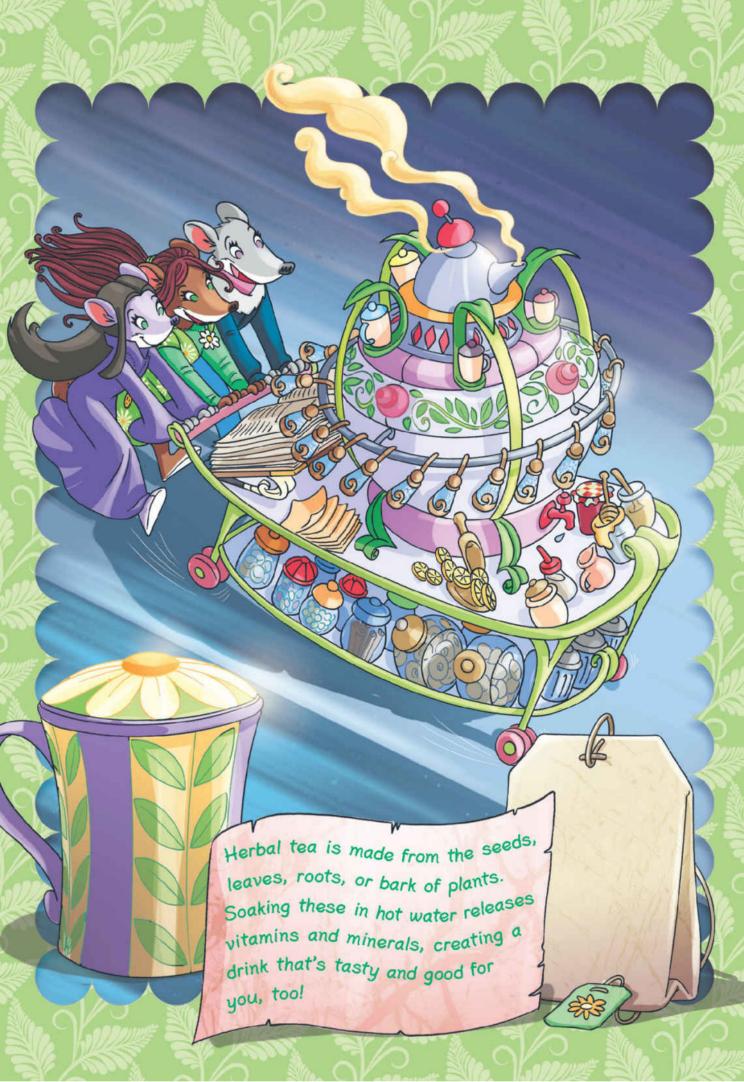
But Flora rushed to my defense.

"You do look **tense**," she said. "That won't help with your writing! You could use a **calming** cup of herbal tea. I'll make you a special, stress-reducer blend!"

A moment later, she, Thea, and Creepella rolled a **gigantic** tea cart into my office.

Flora immediately whipped up an enormouse, hot, steaming mug of tea in a cheese-print mug.

"Drink it!" the three mice commanded in unison.





IT WASN'T ME . . . IT WAS MY COUSIN!

When I finished drinking the herbal tea, I burped so loudly everything in my office shock.

Suddenly, I realized I was **hungry**!

I opened the drawer to my desk looking







for a **yummy** cheese-filled chocolate. I love them so much I always have a box **stashed** there, along with some candy, cookies, and other **delicious** snacks.

I pulled out the box and opened it to discover . . .

Squeak!

THE BOX WAS EMPTY!



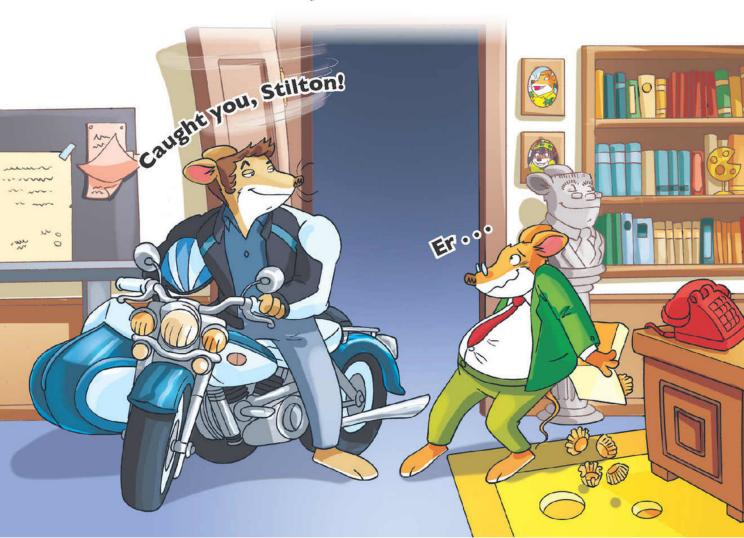


"Where are my chocolates?" I wailed.

I was positive my cousin TRAP had eaten them. He has the **bad habit** of going through my things and devouring any snacks he finds.

Oh, how annoying!

A second later, I heard a strange roar. All of a sudden, a mouse on a motorcycle into my office!





It was my super-healthy, super-fit, super-muscular, and super-energetic friend Dr. Otto Cheesecake. He's the official dietician for the staff of **The Rodent's**

Gazette, and he talks about healthy eating habits an awful lot

for a mouse named Cheesecake!

"Ah, Stilton, admit it!" he squeaked. "I caught you with chocolate in your paws!"

I gulped, feeling embarrassed.

"It's not my fault,
Doctor!"

"Tell me the truth, Stilton," he prodded me, chuckling. "How many cheesy chocolates did you eat?

Dr. Otto Cheesecake

He is one of Thea's friends and, like her, he loves motorcycles. He is Geronimo's personal dietician, and he writes "You Are What You Eat," a column in *The Rodent's Gazette*. He believes wholesome foods and exercise are the keys to good health. Dr. Cheesecake's slogan is: "Don't be a Cheesecake . . . Leave that to me!"









"You promised me you were going to take care of yourself and eat well!"



"B-but I didn't eat a single one!" I exclaimed. "It was my cousin Trap!"



He burst out laughing. Then he WINKED at me.

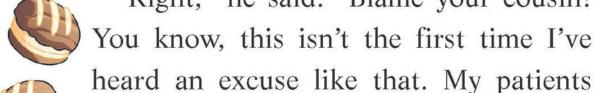
"Right," he said. "Blame your cousin!

You know, this isn't the first time I've

can be very creative. And what

are you doing here in the office anyway?

You're supposed to be at the gym right







now exercising! Now let's see you do twenty-five jumping jacks . . . Let's **go!**"



"B-but, Doctor, I can't right now," I squeaked. "My grandfather, I mean, Creepella, I mean, Hercule . . . You see, the slacker alarm —"



But he pushed me out the door.

"No more excuses, Stilton," he said. "Now go take a nice bike ride in the country. The fresh air will be good for you! You'll thank me for it later, or my name isn't Dr. Cheesecake!"

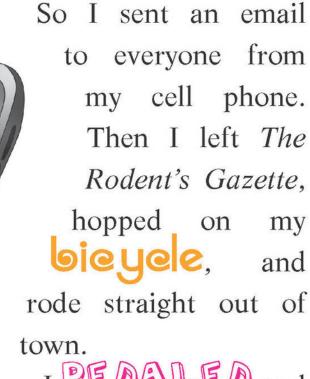




I decided to take Dr. Cheesecake's ADVICE. It had been impawssible to concentrate in the office anyway!

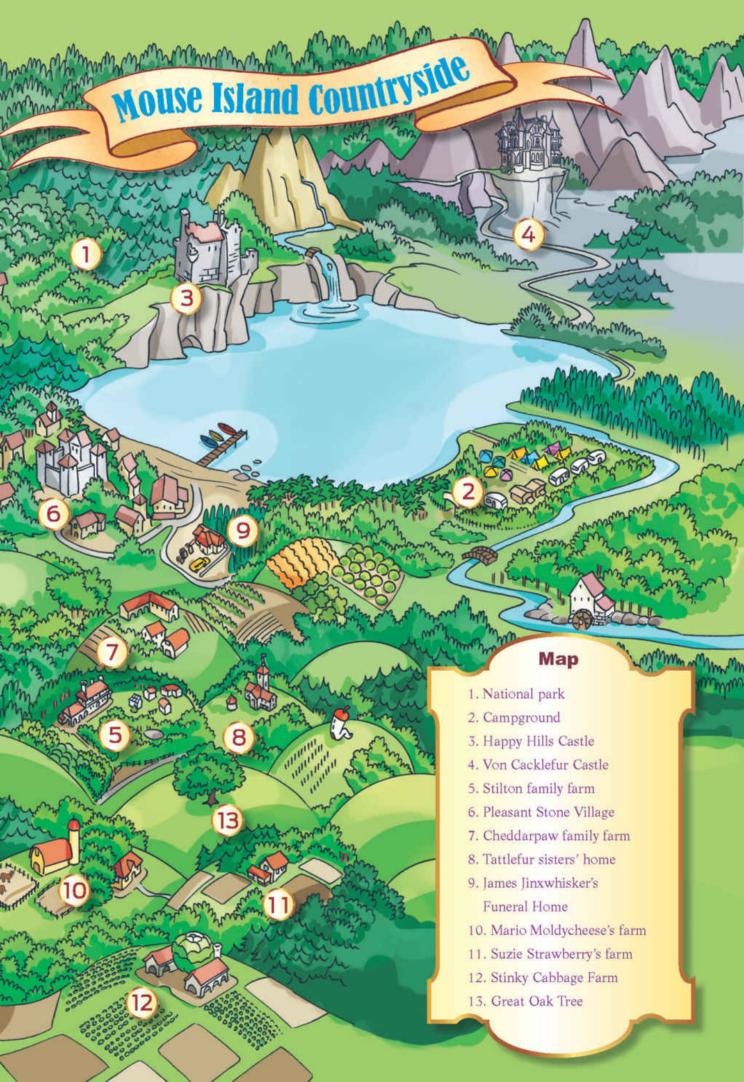
of inspiration.
Best regards and cheese for all,
Geronimo Stilton

I'm taking some time off in search





and pedaled and pe led and pedaled of pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pedaled. and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe and pedaled and pe



... until I got to the countryside. Ah, how relaxing!

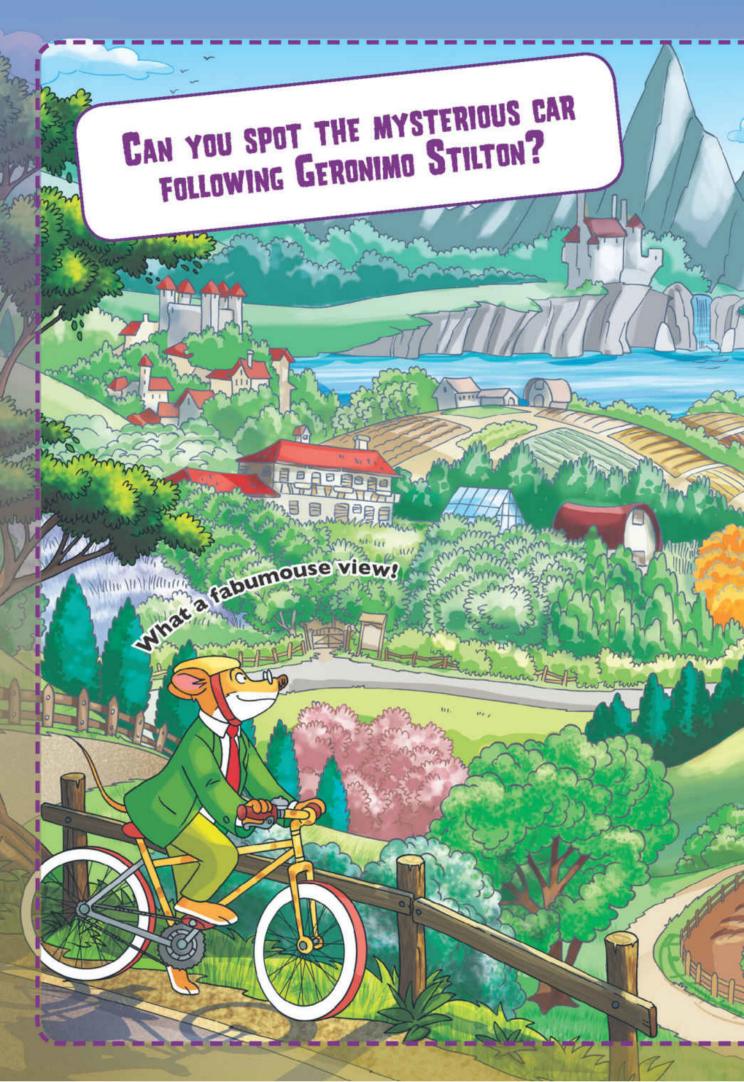
I was riding my bike up, up, up a **llarrow**, **hilly** road leading through the woods.

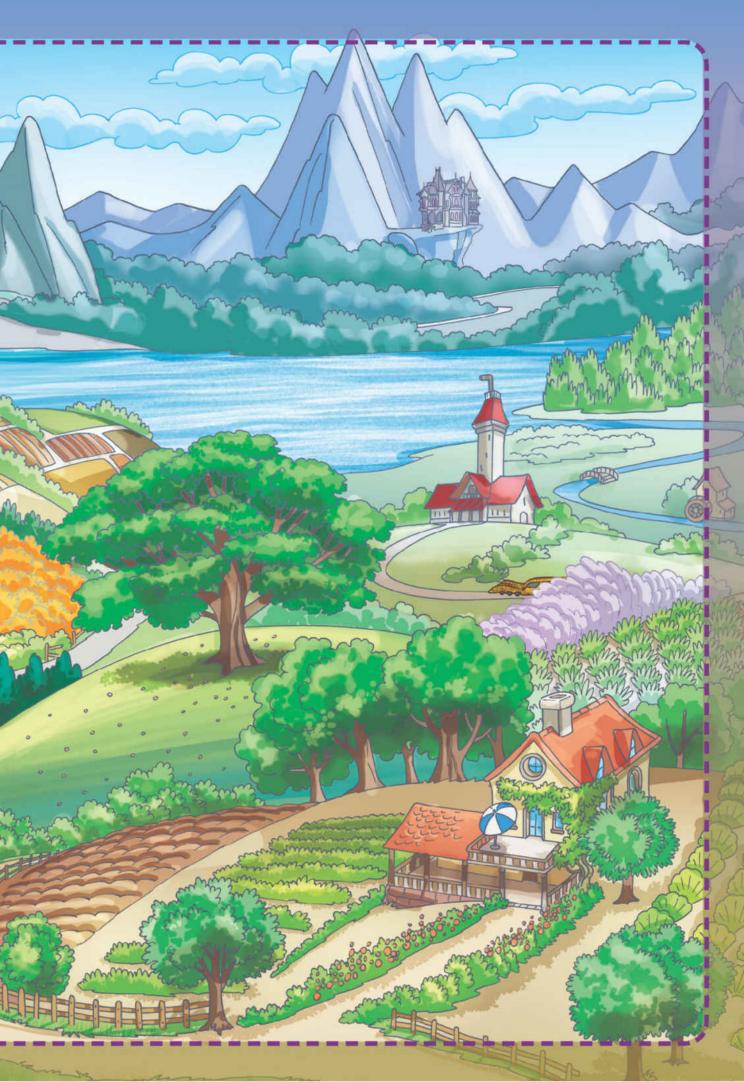
The sun was warm on my fur, the birds were chirping, and a light breeze was blowing. Ah, the countryside is so charming!

A few minutes later, I had the feeling that I had been in that exact place before.

I was deep in thought as I reached the top of the hill. And then I saw it — the most fabumouse view on MOUSE Island! I was at the top of the famouse Happy Hills. Just looking at that beautiful landscape filled my heart with joy.

Then it hit me again — I felt like I had been in that exact place before. **STRANGE!







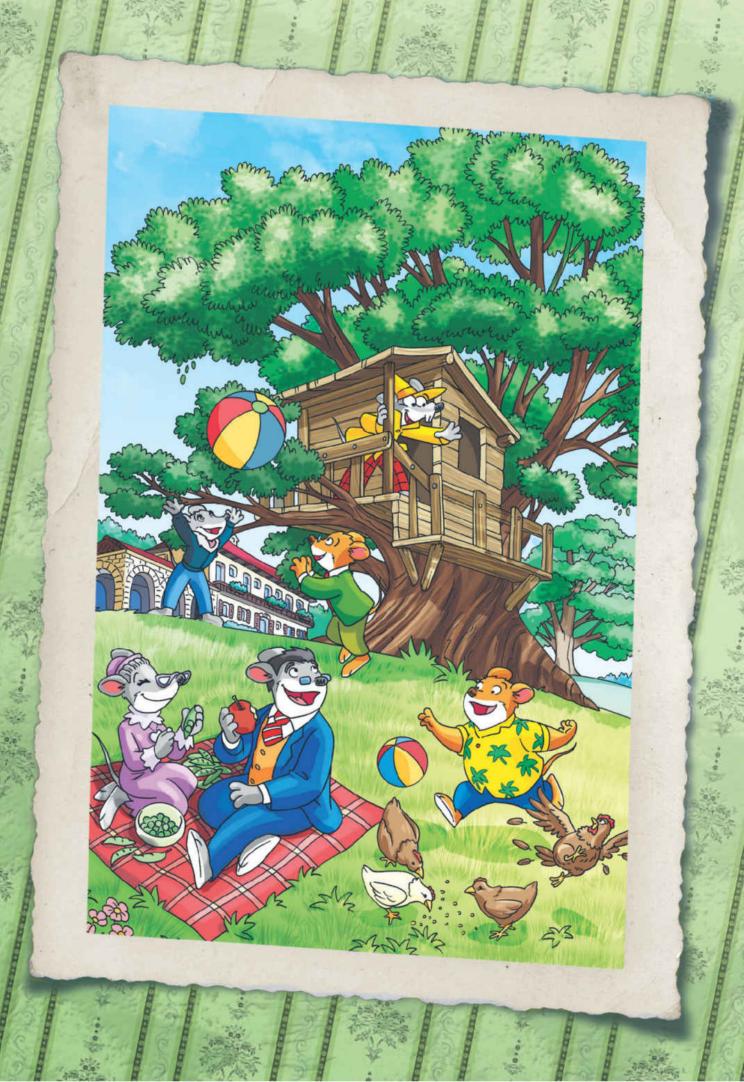
SNOUTDOWN IN A COMPOST HEAP!

I noticed a beautiful, tall, leafy **OAK TREE** on the hilltop right in front of me, and suddenly I knew why the place looked **so fomilior** . . .

It wasn't a random oak tree, it was the **LEGENDARY** Great Oak!

When I was a mouselet, Grandfather William and my aunt Sweetfur used to take me to the Stilton family farm in the Happy Hills for my Summer vacation, and it had been right near that amazing tree!

Aunt Sweetfur had sold the farm years ago, but I wondered if it was **STILL THERE**. Excited at the thought of

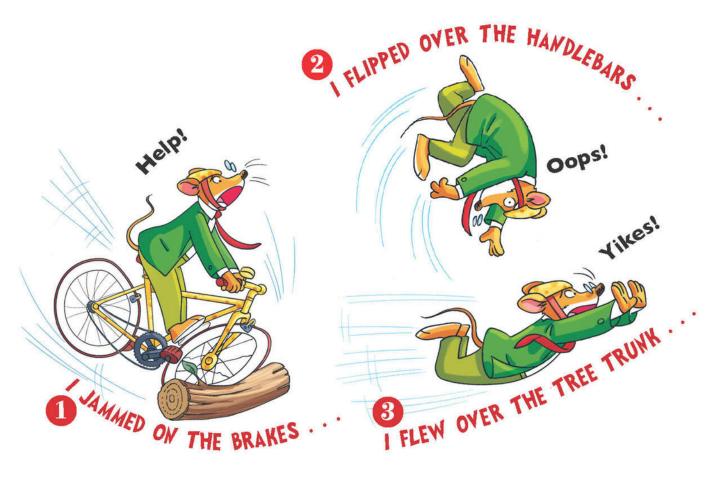


happy memories, I pedaled FASTER and FASTER.

I was flying down the hill, the wind in my fur, when I noticed a **TREE TRUNK** in the middle of the road.

SQUEAK!

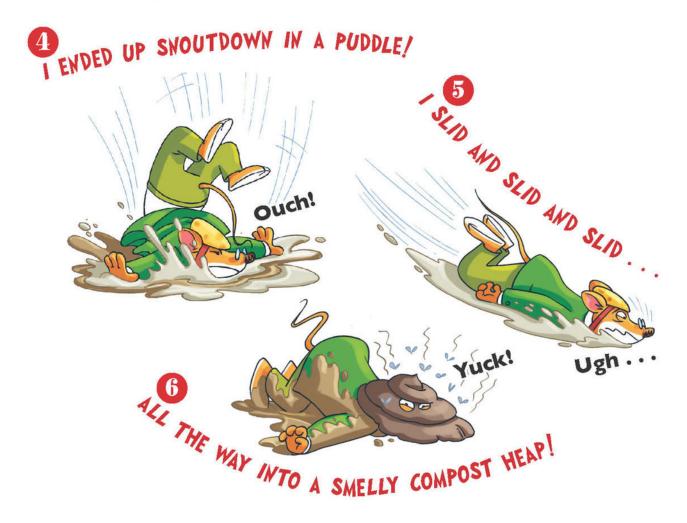
I **SLammeD** on the brakes, the bike **SCREECHED** to a stop, and I **Flew**



over the trunk. I ended up snoutdown in a **Puddle**. I continued to slide down the hill until I landed in a STINKY, **SLIMY** compost heap.

YUCK!

I stood up and tried to **clean off** my fur with some leaves. But the leaves just **Stuck** to me!

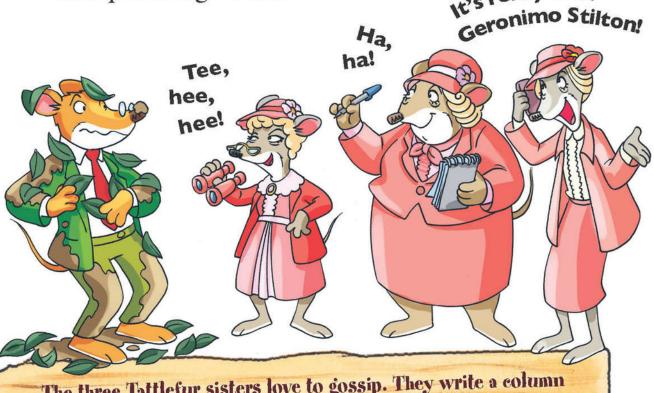




Oh, how do I always get myself into these crazy messes?

Suddenly, I heard giggles behind me. "Tee, hee, hee!"

I turned to see three older rodents in bright pink dresses. They were laughing and pointing at me.



The three Tattlefur sisters love to gossip. They write a column and a blog for the local paper called "True Tales of the Tattlefur Sisters." They know everything about everybody, and if there's nothing to find out, they make it up!

The first sister was peering at me through a pair of binoculors, the second was busy taking notes, and the third was already squeaking on the phone with a friend!

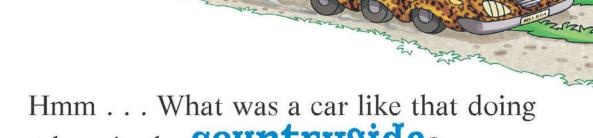
"Guess what?" she chattered.

"Geronimo Stilton fell into a compositation. I just saw it with my very own eyes!

Yes, yes, I'm sure. It's really him: Geronimo Stilton, the publisher and editor in chief of The Rodent's Gazette. We'll be posting it later today on our blog, 'True Tales of the Tattlefur Sisters'!"

I was so embarrassed I turned as red as a tomato. Then I noticed a mysterious leopard-patterned limousine with tinted windows drive by.

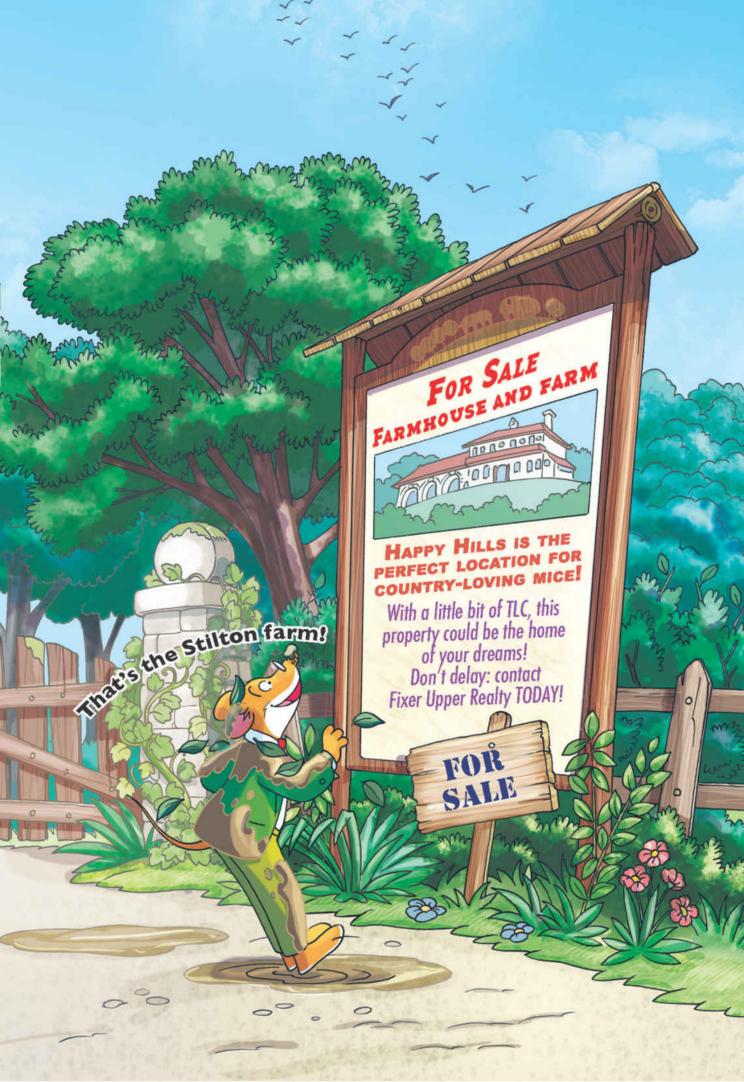
A leopard-patterned limousine

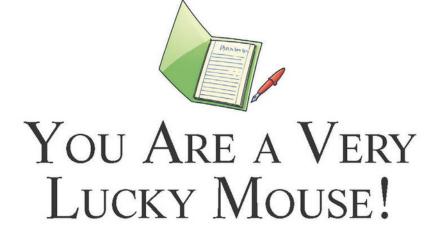


out here in the **CountrySide**?
But before I could give the **Strange**

limousine much thought, I noticed a sign in front of me. I recognized the picture iMMEDiaTELY — it was the former Stilton family farm!

Squeak! So the farm where I used to go each summer when I was a mouseling was still right there. And more important, it was for sale!





As soon as I realized that the **farm** where I had spent so many happy summers was for sale, I knew it would be **fabumouse** to go back there with all my friends. I really wanted to **buy** it, but could I afford it?

I thought about it for a long time. Finally

I called Aunt Sweetfur to ask her advice.

"My dear nephew," she squeaked,

"follow your heart and you can't go wrong!"

So I hopped back on my bike and I pedaled and pedaled and pedaled all the way to Pleasant Stone Village. Once I arrived, I went straight to the office of



UPPER REALTY

I told the owner that I had seen the sign and I wanted to buy the farm.

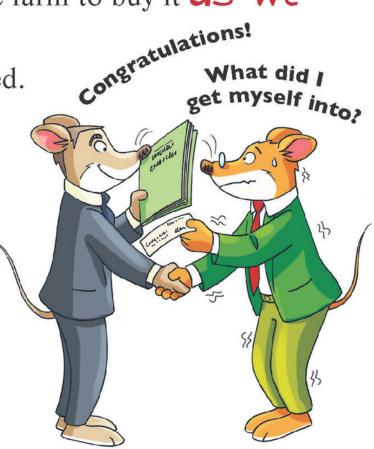
"What a coincidence!" he squeaked, a surprised look on his snout. "Someone else just called about the farm a moment ago. It was a MUSTERIOUS rodent who didn't want to give me her name. She's on her way out here to the farm to buy it ds we

Squeak!"
"Noooo!" I wailed.

"I'm **t00 late**!"

He burst out laughing.

"Mr. Stilton, do you know you are a very **lucky** mouse?" he said, smiling. "You got



here first, so you're not too late. The **farm** is yours!"

With a **shaky** paw, I handed him a check.

"Congratulations," he said. "You are now the proud owner of a farmhouse and farm in the **COUNTRYSIDE!**"

Oh, what had I gotten myself into?

As I walked out the door, I saw the mysterious leopard-patterned limousine with tinted windows pull up.

A female rodent wearing DARK sunglasses, a leopard-print dress, and high-heeled leopard-print shoes stepped out and

hurried into the office. She was followed by three enormouse bodyguards.

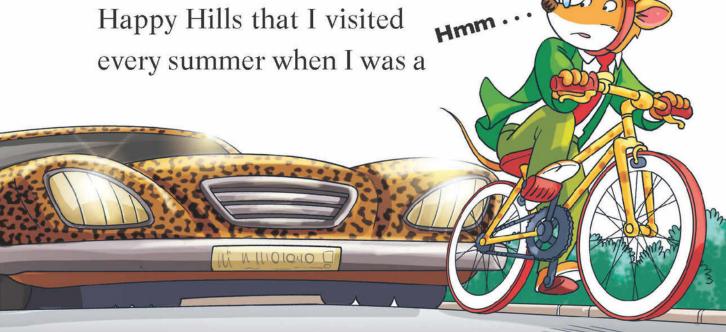
Could that be the mysterious rodent interested in purchasing the farm?

Who knows?

I didn't think about it for long because I was in a hurry to tell my friends and family the **EXCITING** news.

I RODE back to The Rodent's Gazette office as quickly as I could.

"My dear friends, I have **mouserific** news!" I squeaked as I opened the door. "I just discovered that the farm in the Happy Hills that I visited











mouseling is **5till there!**And guess what? **I bought it!** You're all invited to come visit, once I make a few small **renovations** and **repairs**."

My friends surrounded and hugged me, squeaking happily.

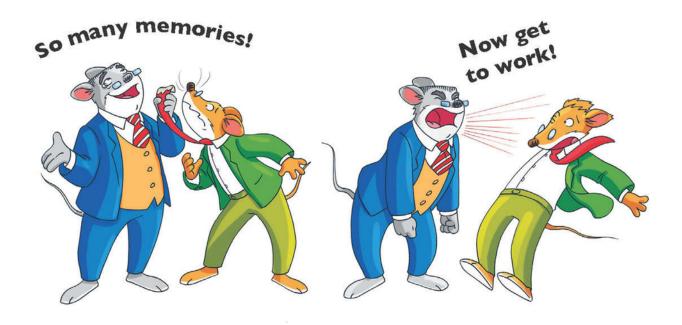
Grandfather William shed a few tears and blew his nose in my tie.

"Well done, Grandson," he said proudly. "This was a great idea! I have so many happy memories of the farm. That's where I taught you to ride your bieyele, and it's where Thea learned to ride a horse.

Hercule solved his first case there, and I even **BUILT** you a tree house at the farm."

I sighed. "Won't it be **WONDERFUL** to be back there, Grandfather?" I asked.

"Yes, of course," he agreed. "But you know my Motto, right? Work, Work, Work! I expect only the best for the farm. I hope you have a plan for fixing it up, because I already have a plan for tracking your progress..."









I was almost knocked off my paws by a huge force. Was it a **CYCLONE**? A **tornado**?

No, it was my grandfather's cook and housekeeper, Tina Spicytail!

She has more energy than a baby hamster on a wheel, and she's strong enough to carry a tray of food THREE TIMES HER SIZE! She

tina spicytail

arrived, carrying a large

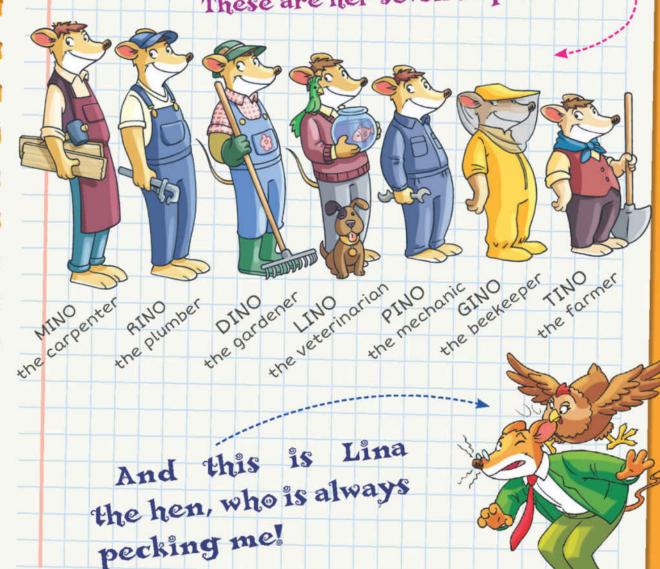
silver tray loaded with food.

"Here is your **SNack**, Mr. William!" she announced.



Tina Spicytail is Grandfather William's cook and housekeeper. She is an incredible chef known for her spectacular cheese lasagna and her delectable pies. She is the only one who can go snout-to-snout with Grandfather William. She always carries a silver rolling pin and a silver fork engraved with her initials.

These are her seven nephews:

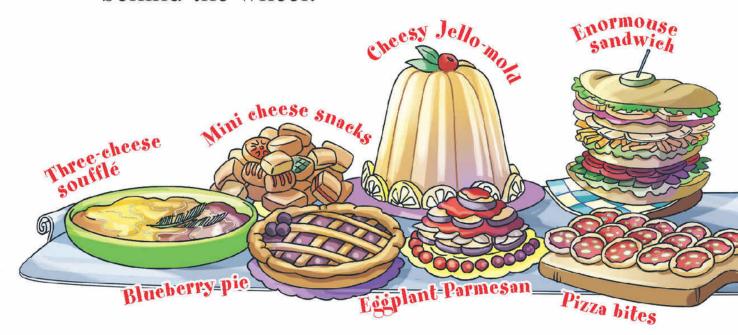




"Yum!" he said as he rubbed his belly greedily. "Grandson, I have a **great** idea. I'll stay here at the office and you'll go to the farm with Tima. She'll keep track of your progress using the slacker alarm!"

If you know my grandfather at all, you know it's **impossible** to argue with him (well, unless you're Tina!).

So I boarded my grandfather's **cheese- colored camper** along with my
friends and family. My sister, Thea, got
behind the wheel.

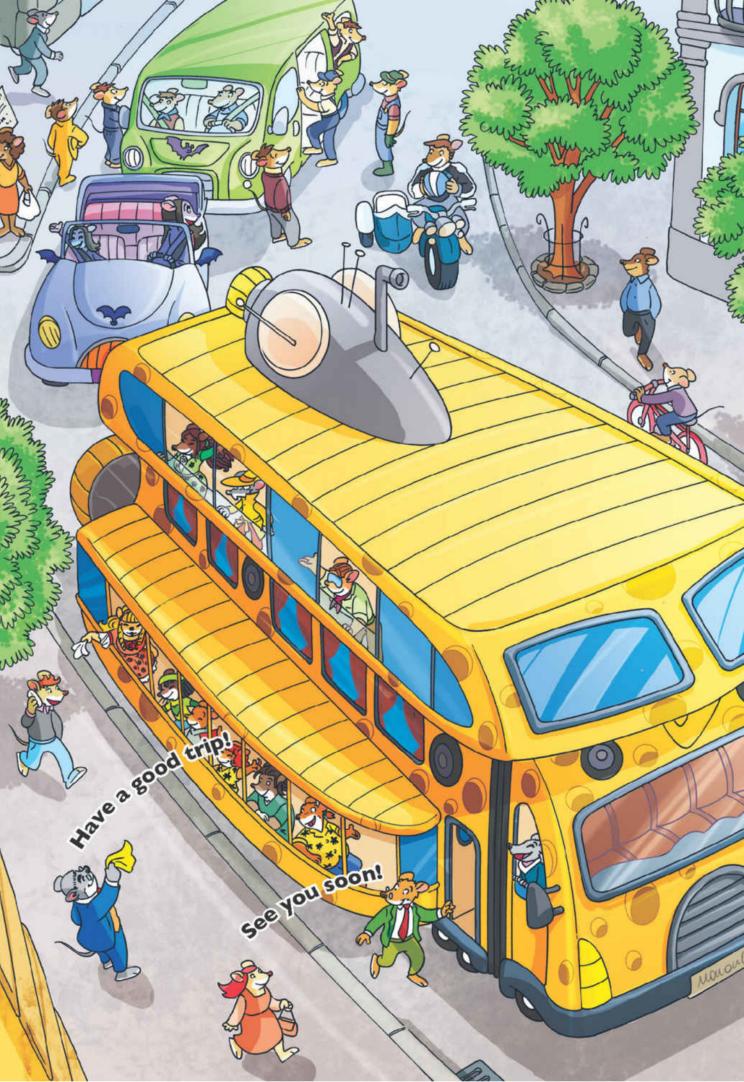




During the drive to the farm, I started to doubt myself. Had I done the right thing? After all, I don't know ANYTHING about the country! How in the name of cheese was I going to fix up the farm and care for the Land and animals?

My whiskers **trembled** as I thought about all the work that had to be done. Suddenly, a friendly paw touched my shoulder.







"You look **nervous**, Geronimo," a voice squeaked. It was Flora van der Plant. "Don't worry; you aren't alone. We'll all work together!"

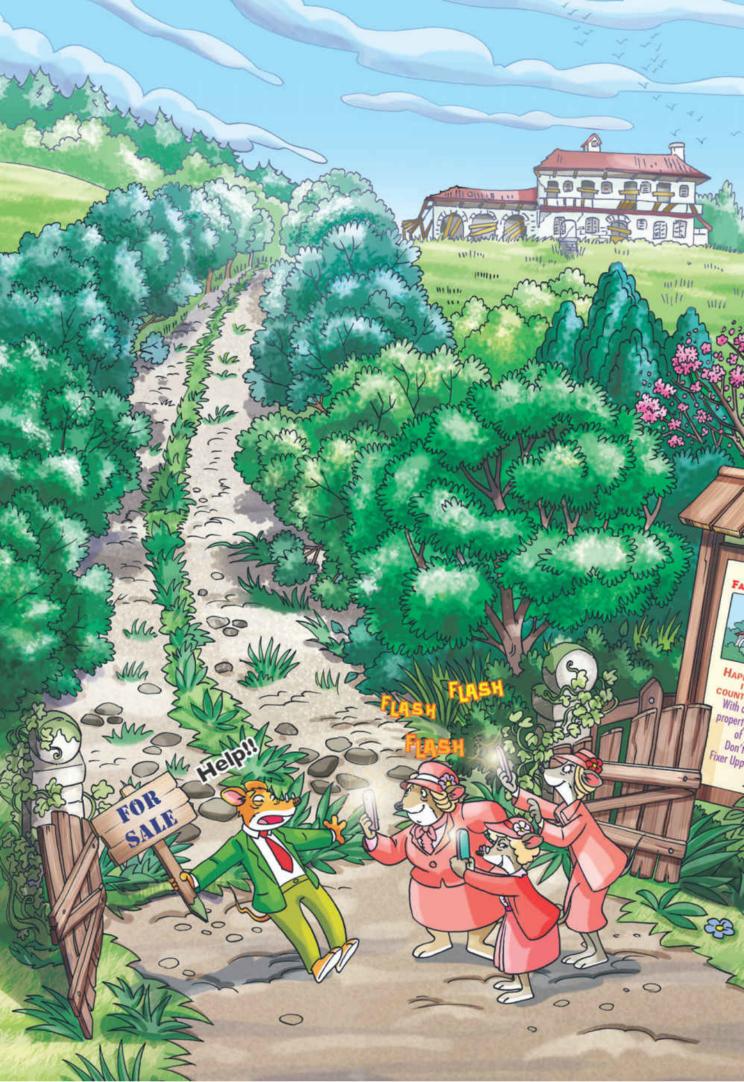
When we arrived at the farm, the **SUN** was setting and the sky was turning a thousand different **SULLS** of pink. The countryside is so **beautiful** at sunset!

I stepped out of the camper to remove the **FOR SALE** sign in front of the farm and was greeted by a bunch of bright flashes. Holey cheese, it was the three **Tattlefur** sisters!

Grandfather's

Cheese-Colored Camper

This supercamper is longer than fifty mice standing tail-to-tail and is painted a deep cheddar yellow. It contains a kitchen, dining room, multiple bedrooms, and a library filled with books!





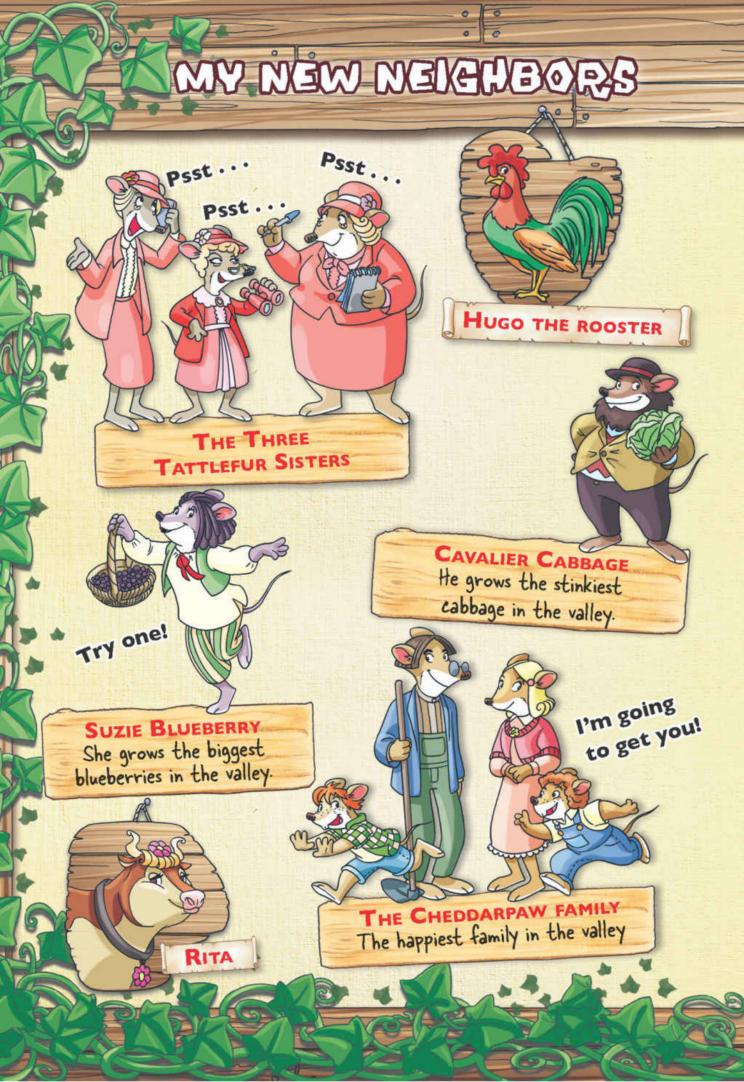
One of them waved a phone in front of my snout. Squak! It showed a picture of me covered in leaves and COMPOST from the tips of my ears to the end of my tail!

Oh, how embarrassing!

My cousin Trap began to laugh and laugh.

"Cousin, you look so **silly** covered in compost and mud and leaves!" he tittered. "Ha, ha, ha! You'd better **WATGH**OUT for those Tattlefur sisters . . . They really got you!

Ha, ha, ha!





A FEW MONTHS LATER . . .

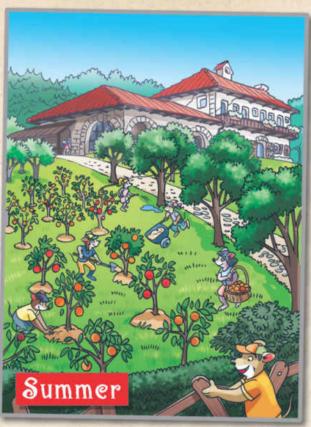
We started renovating the farm right away and worked all **Spring**,

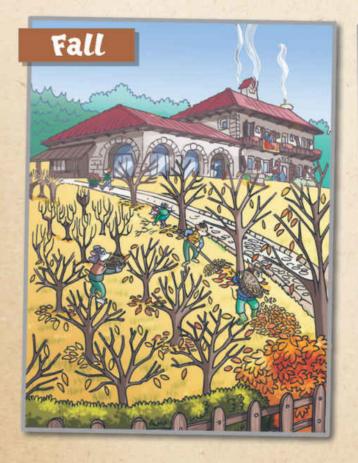
summer,

and fall.

As **Winter** set in, we were close to finished! On the night of December 21 — the first day of winter — we finally put away all our tools and **EQUIPMENT**. Thanks to everyone's help, we had done it! The **farm** was even nicer than it had been in the past. And I was starting to understand more and more about life in the country . . .





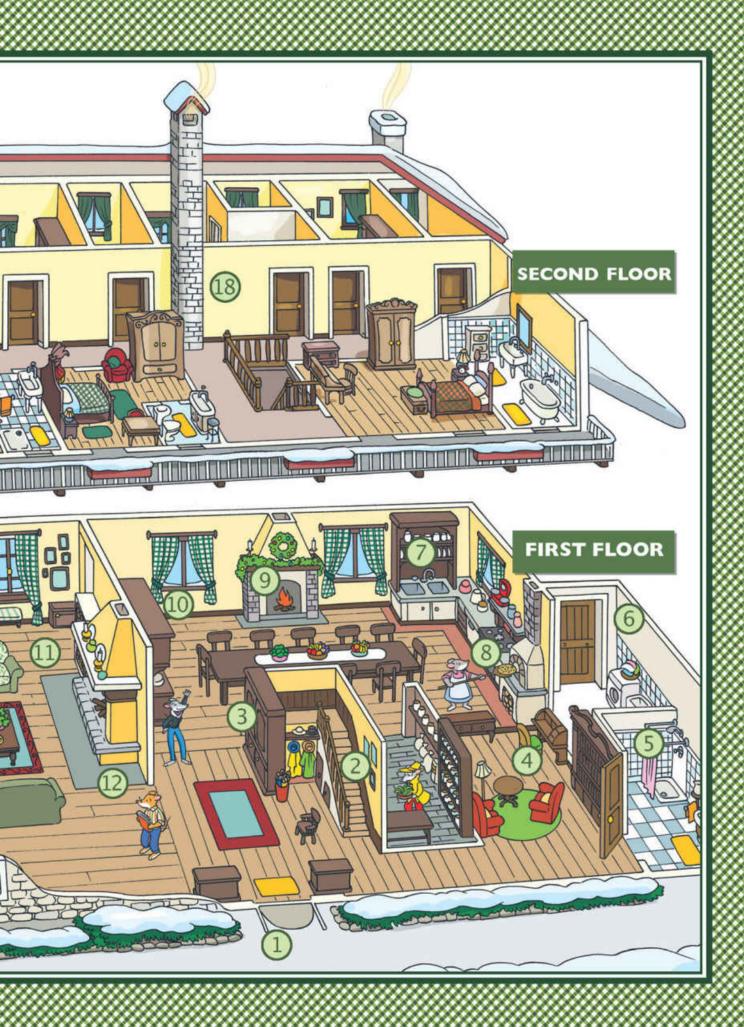














I found out so many things I hadn't known about life in the country.

For example, I had to **Wake** at dawn every day! Every morning, Tina handed me a very list of daily tasks.

"First, gather **eggs** from the henhouse for breakfast," she squeaked. "Then Farmer Cheddarpaw is coming by to show you how to manage the vegetable garden. After that,

from the beehives and help Yoyo with the baking!

And don't forget to mow the grass, milk the cows, and . . . "

Squaak! There was so much to do and it wasn't even six in the morning. I headed for the henhouse. Alas, the hens weren't happy to see

Cluck, cluck, me. Ouch, the Pecking!

cluck!

After that, I tried to collect the honey, but the bees were too busy stinging my tail! When Farmer Cheddarpaw arrived to help me in the vegetable garden, the first thing he did was make me shovel stinky MANURE.

"It will really help the crops grow Faster," he explained. "Grab a shovel and get some from the barn, Geronimo!"

Finally, I headed back to the kitchen to help Yoyo. She wanted me to pick blackberries (the THORNY bushes



THE COUNTRYSIDE IS SO BEAUTIFUL! (ISn't it?)



In the country you don't need an alarm clock: the rooster Wakes you at dawn.



When the hens PECK, it hurts!



It's not easy to collect the hens' eggs!



Honey is sweet, but watch out for the bees!



To prepare the vegetable garden, you need MANURE . . .

Chestnut butter is delicious, but the BURRS prick!

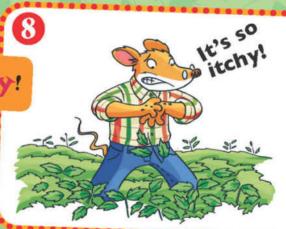




When it rains, you can easily **SLIP** on the wet grass!

Steer clear of poison ivy!





Goats like to chew on everything!

0

Milking cows isn't easy!



were so sharp!), chestnuts (the spiky burrs prick!), and STINGING NETTLE leaves. OUCH!

Living in the country wasn't always cheesy, but we were happy. Every night we sat down together to eat a healthy, delicious meal.





THE SECRET OF THE GREAT OAK

One night I went to bed feeling particularly **exhausted**. I was hoping I could sleep in the next morning, but right at dawn I heard it: **cock-a-doodle-doo!**

1 It was hugo, the rooster!

I covered my head and tried to go back to sleep, but something pecked my ear: CLUCK. CLUCK. **

2 It was Lina, the hen!





^{*} Cluck, cluck, cluck! means "Wake up, slacker!" in hen.

I pulled the covers over my snout and went back to **sleep**. But a second later someone opened the windows and let in a blast of **COLD AIR** that blew the covers off my bed. Then I heard the clang of a metal fork hitting a gong.

3 It was Tina Spicytail, the alarm clock!

"Wake up, sleepyhead!" she squeaked.

"Time to get out of bed!"

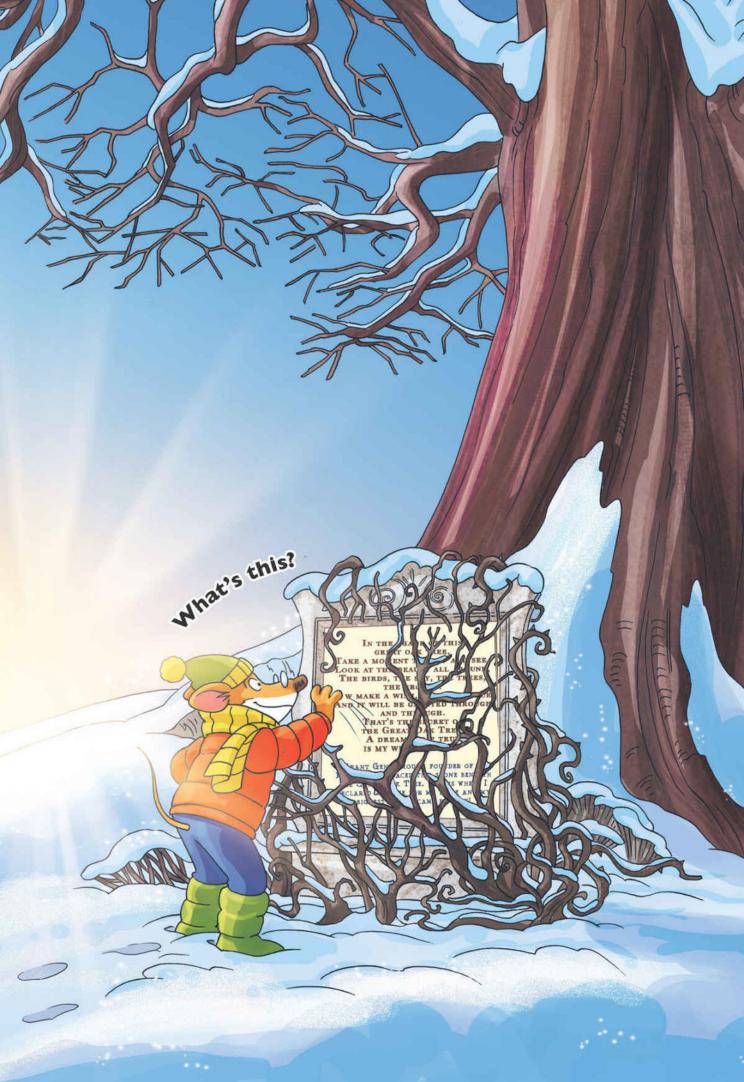


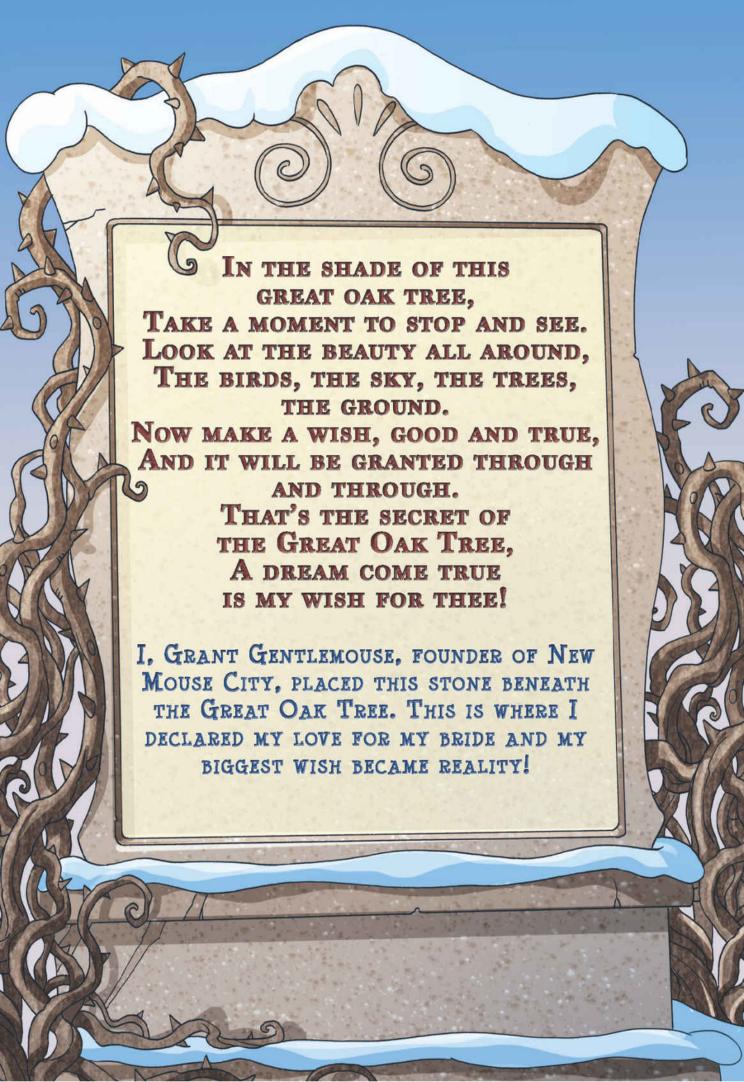
I got up and looked out the window. The sun wasn't up yet. It was cold, but I decided to take a walk. I got bundled up in a jacket, scarf, and hat, and started walking down the dirt road. I walked in silence, breathing in the cold air, snow crunching under my paws. Finally, I arrived at the GREAT OAK!

I wonder how long this tree has been here? I thought to myself. Who knows how many BIRDS have made nests in its branches? Who knows how many mice have taken a cool rest in the shade of its leaves?

As I studied the tree thoughtfully, I noticed an **OLD STORE** covered in thorns at the foot of the tree. I pushed the thorns aside and began to **read**...

Great Gouda! I had uncovered a







real mouserific treasure at the base of that tree! I couldn't believe that no one else had found the stone in the many years since Grant Gentlemouse had founded **new Mouse City**. I couldn't wait to tell my friends.



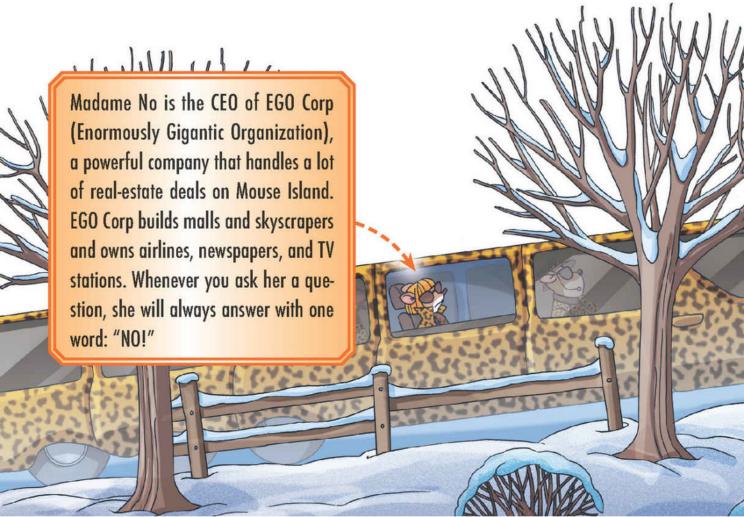
^{*} You can read all about this in my book *The Hunt for the Hundredth Key*.



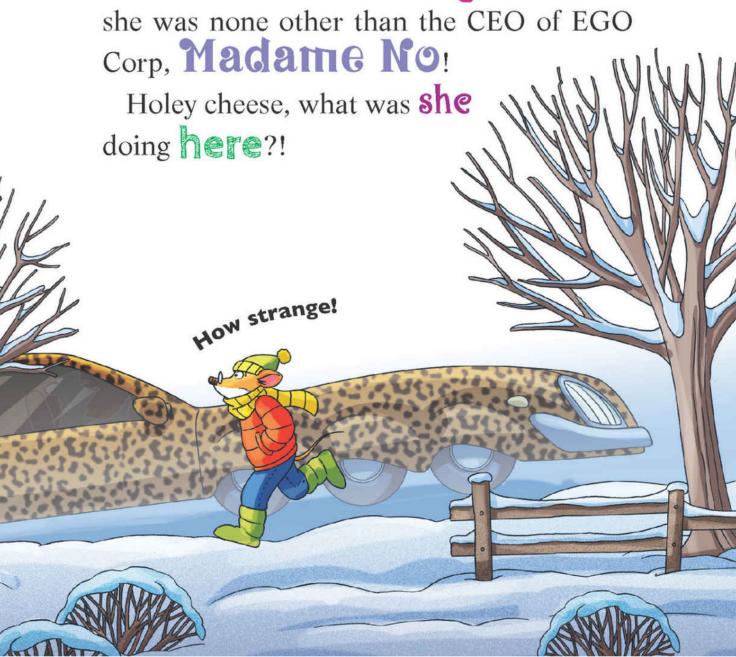


As I hurried back to tell everyone about my fabumouse **discovery**, I saw the **leopard-patterned** limousine with the tinted windows again.

It had been months since I'D Last seen it. What was that STRANGE car doing way out here in the country? It looked much too fancy to be zipping around on dirt roads.



One of the car windows was down, and I got a glimpse of an arrogant-looking rodent with short fur. She glared at me with eyes as cold as She was the same rodent I had seen outside the real-estate office, but this time I recognized her: she was none other than the CEO of EGO





When I walked into the house, my friends and family were all sitting around the LARGE KITCHEN TABLE.



The fire **Crackled** pleasantly.

"Geronimo, come join us for breakfast!" Creepella squeaked.

"Yes, Tina just baked an **apple pie**!" Thea added.

I sat down at the table with my friends and enjoyed the **freshly baked** warm

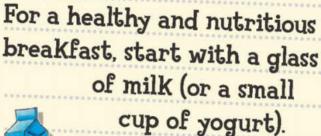


How to Prepare a Healthy Breakfast





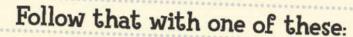
BREAKFAST IS THE FIRST
MEAL OF THE DAY, SO IT'S
IMPORTANT NOT TO SKIP IT!



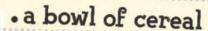


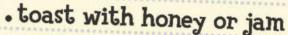


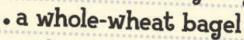


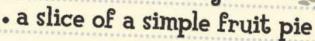


















IF YOU NEED TO WAKE UP A LITTLE EARLIER TO MAKE TIME FOR BREAKFAST, DO IT! AND DON'T FORGET TO HAVE A MIDMORNING SNACK LIKE A PIECE OF FRESH FRUIT OR A SLICE OF MULTIGRAIN BREAD WITH NUT BUTTER.

bread, the **honey** from our beehives, the **homemade** blueberry jam, and the **yogurt** and **cheese** from the milk of our cows.

Yum, yum, yummy!

I told everyone about the stone I had uncovered at the foot of the GREAT OAK TREE, and my friends were all excited about it.

Then we got up from the table and started our activities for the day. A few mice began to **read**, someone sat down to play the piano,

away from me. Now keep your paws off the Great Oak Tree!

and Benjamin and Trappy

began **playing** a memory card game.

Right then my cell phone beeped: I had a **text**. As

soon as I read it, my whiskers began to tremble.

Who would have sent such a **NASTY** text without signing it? And why would anyone want to keep me away from the Great Oak Tree?

I showed my friends the mysterious message right away.

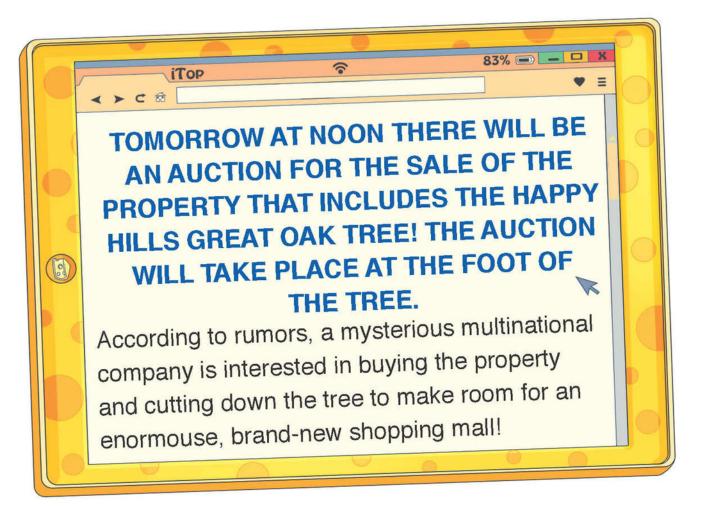
"How strange!" they cried.

"This is a very odd text," Thea said thoughtfully. "Someone wants you to stay away from the Great Oak Tree . . . but why?"

Benjamin took out his tablet and did a little research.

"Wow!" he squeaked. "The Great Oak is mentioned in **today's news**!"

Everyone gathered around Benjamin to read the story.



"Really?"

"What's it say?"

"Go ahead and read it!" Tina Spicytail said **encouragingly**.

I shook my snout **SADLY**.

"My dear friends, the **GREAT OAK TREE** is in danger," I said, sighing. "What should we do?"

Everyone replied in unison:



To Catch a Crook

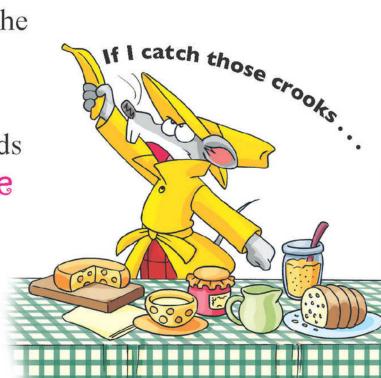
Hercule jumped up from the breakfast table and waved a BANANA in the air angrily.

"I'd just love to know who these **COWATOLY CTOOKS** are who are trying to scare you away, Geronimo!" he cried. "I'm **ON the Case**, or my name isn't Hercule Poirat! I'll catch them, just wait! We won't be scared away so **Casily**, that's for sure!"

"Yeah!" some of the others chimed in.

"Don't be afraid,
Geronimo," my friends
squeaked. "You're
not alone!"

"There's one



other thing you should all know," I said. "This morning when I was walking back from the Great Oak Tree, I saw a long, leopard-patterned limousine with tinted windows. It was the same car I saw outside the real-estate office when I bought the farm all those months ago. And do you want to know who I saw inside that car?"

"Of course!" everyone squeaked.

"Who was it?"

"Come on, Geronimo, tell us!" I took a deep breath. "It was Madame No"

"Holey cheese!" Hercule replied. "That means that EGO Corp must be the one that wants to take down the tree to build a Shopping Mall!"

"What can we do?" I asked.





We tried and tried to come up with a plan to protect the Great Oak, but we couldn't think of anything!

Thea, Creepella, and Flora were together in a corner. All of a sudden, they became quiet, and Flora turned to the rest of us.

"We have an idea!" she squeaked. "There is only one thing we can do to **Sale** the Great Oak Tree: go to the auction and win!"

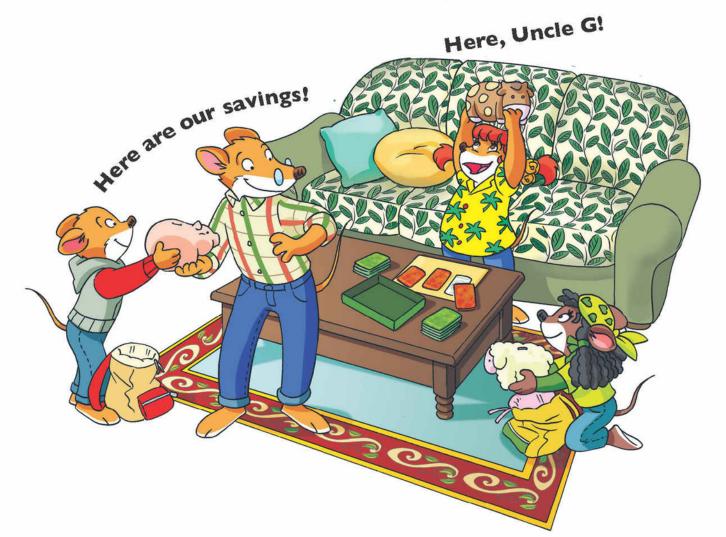
"That's a good thought, but we will have to come up with enough money to win," I replied. "How can we possibly defeat the powerful, wealthy EGO Corp? And we don't have much time: the auction is tomorrow at noon!"

Benjamin, Trappy, and Bugsy Wugsy whispered to one another. Then they opened

their backpacks and handed me their piggy banks.

"Here is everything we have saved, Uncle," Benjamin said. "It's not much, but we want to help save the Great Oak, too!"

"Thank you!" I squeaked. "You know, you may be on to something. I'll add my savings, and if all of us contribute just a little bit,



then a small amount will GROW and GROW and GROW until it's a huge sum!

"We'll print a special edition of **The**Rodent's Gazette to raise the
money to N the—"

But before I could even finish my sentence, Tina came racing into the room, holding the phone.





She knocked me right off my paws, and I almost PROPPED the piggy banks!

"Mr. Stilton, your grandfather is on the line," she squeaked. "He wants to talk to you RIGHT MOW!"

I put the phone on speaker so everyone could hear my grandfather's voice . . .

WHAT IS AN HUCTION?

An auction is a type of sale in which objects, buildings, or pieces of land are offered for sale to the public. The person who "bids," or offers, the most money wins.



"Grandson!" my grandfather roared. "Tina explained everything to me. For once I agree with you: we **QDSOIUTELY** must save the Great Oak! That tree is a special piece of Mouse Island history. e must protect special edition of The

the Great Oak!

proceeds will go toward the auction. But we need some DEAS for the newspaper articles."

"We can write about how **great** it is



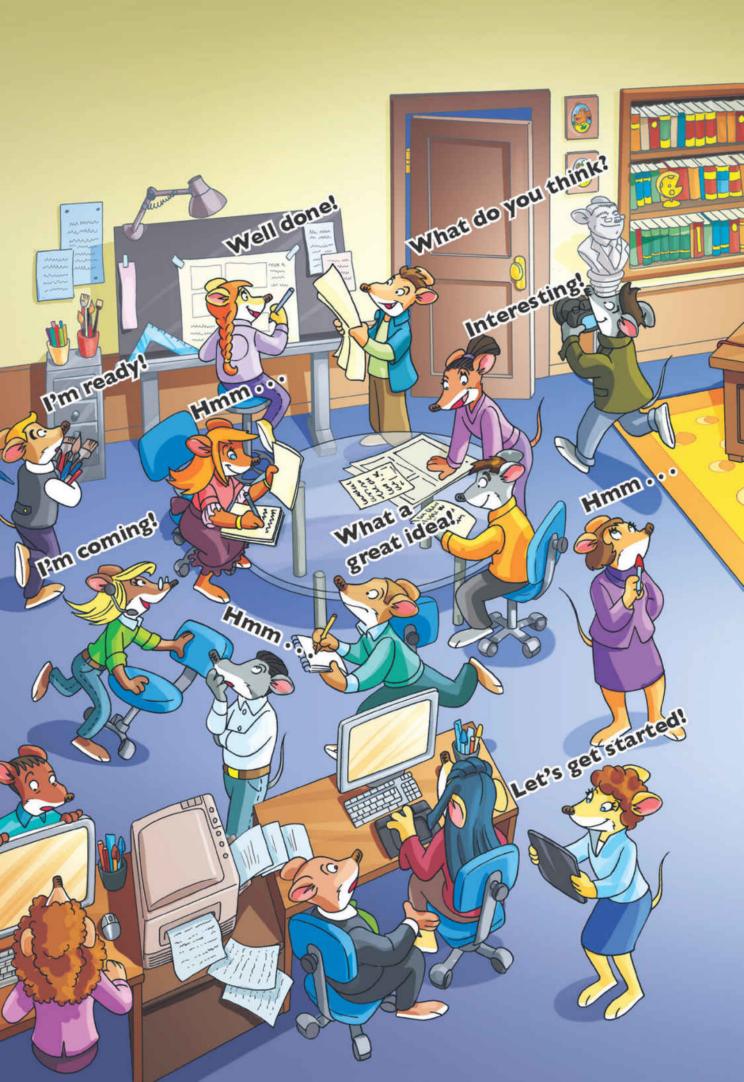
to visit or live in the countryside," Flora suggested. "I can contribute by writing a column about homegrown herbal teas."

"And we can include a contribute by writing a column about homegrown herbal teas."

"And we can include a GAME, too," Benjamin said. "It can be a nature memory card game like the one Trappy and I have been playing. That would be a special giveaway . . . "

"Great idea, Benjamin!"
Grandfather agreed. "I'm so **proud** of you! We'll get started here at the paper, and we'll put together a fabumouse special issue. The paper will be at newsstands tomorrow morning before **SUPTISE!** Over and out!"

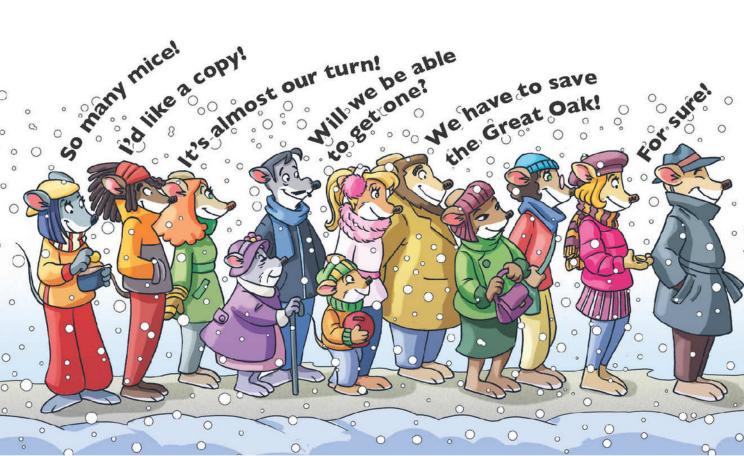
Then he **hung up**.





My dear readers, the following morning rodents all across Mouse Island snapped up their own issues of the special edition. Within one hour, The Rodent's Gazette had sold out!

It was a mouserific success!



Now we had enough funds to attend the **auction** and perhaps even win! But I had a feeling it wouldn't be easy to **DEFEAT** Madame No and the EGO Corp.

And my feeling was completely **COPPECT**...





One Powerful Mouse

I was getting ready to leave for the auction when I heard the **SQUEAL** of car tires and the **SQUEAL** sound of the brakes.

SCREECH!

Moments later, the doorbell rang loudly:

DING DONG! DING DONG!! DING DONG!!

I ran to open the door and saw three **buff**, enormouse rats in **leopard**-**print** jackets standing there!

"We told you to stay away from the Great Oak, you **SMGFTY-MOUSE!**"

the first rat growled MEANLY. "Yeah," agreed the second. "Madame No wants to buy that tree, and what Madame No wants, Madame No gets!" "Be careful," the third rat squeaked, "or you'll make her very, very angry!" My whiskers trembled with fear: what bullies! Stay away! Watch, out Squeak!



But I wasn't going to let them intimidate me.

"My friends and I are not acraid," I replied. "Tell Madame No we'll see her at the auction, and we're going to WIN!"

The back window of the limousine lowered, and I saw Madame No staring at me with Exes as cold as an less winter night.

"You'd better watch out!" she hissed. "I'll take down the Great Oak Tree and build a mega shopping mall in its place! I'm one powerful mouse, and you don't want to cross me. I always win, no matter what!"

Then the car 5 Creece ned off.

At noon we all met at the tree . . .

The auction was about to start!





My heart was beating **quickly**, but I wasn't scared because I knew I wasn't alone!

In fact, many mice I knew (and even some I didn't know!) had come from New Mouse City to SUPPORT Me. It was nice to know so many people cared.

The **auctioneer** announced the beginning of the auction: "Lady rodents and gentlemice, we are here for the sale of the Happy Hills property, which includes the **GREAT OAK TREE**. The opening bid will be the low price of —"

He cleared his throat and said a number. It was a huge amount!

"Ooohhhh!" the audience cried out in surprise. Not many mice had that kind of money.

"Any bidders?" the auctioneer asked.

Madame No raised her paw.



"I bid **twice** that amount!" she said triumphantly.

I raised my **PaW** to bid as well.

"And I offer **twice** that amount!" I squeaked.

Madame No raised her left eyebrow in **supprise**.

"Well . . ." she replied, "I offer double the doubled double amount!"

THE AUCTIONEER

During an auction, the auctioneer is the person who announces, describes, and awards items to the highest bidder.



offer double!







y'll bid double



I was able to counter her offer thanks to the **Proceeds** from the sale of the special edition of *The Rodent's Gazette*.

"I'll counter that offer with doubled amounts double the double the doubled double!" I squeaked.

> Madame No lifted RIGHT eyebrow (she was completely **Stunned**).

> "I'll double the double the double the doubled double!" she shouted.

> I stared **Straight** at her and proudly replied: "Then I'll bid double the double the double the doubled double amount!"

"How dare you!" Madame No



squeaked. I could tell I was really getting under her FUR.

"Everyone please pay close attention: I offer double the double the double the double the double the double amount! Is that clear?"

I placed my final offer, my whiskers trembling from **exhaustion**. I had finally **used up** all the funds raised by the special edition of *The Rodent's Gazette*!

"What are we going to do now, Stilton?" Hercule asked. "There isn't one penny left to offer . . . "

double the doubled doubled doubled doubled doubles

double the double the double the double the doubled double!









Unfortunately, Madame No's henchmice overheard us squeaking. They immediately advised Madame No.

When Madame No realized I didn't have one penny left, she smirked confidently.

"I offer ONE PENNY more than Geronimo Stilton's last bid! What do you have to say now, huh?"

She crossed her paws across her chest and glared at me smugly, confident that she had won.

"Ooohhhh!" the audience gasped. "What will Geronimo Stilton do now?"

"Lady rodents and gentlemice, any other bids?" the auctioneer asked.

I turned as White as mozzarella. That was it: there was no more money I could OFFER. I was going to lose.

Won! I won! I won!



Meanwhile, positive she had won, **Madame**No began to brag.

"You don't have any more money, huh?" she taunted.
"Ha! You lost! I told you to watch out, rat! You should have known better! I'm One powerful mouse,

and WON, WON, WON! Now I'll tear down that ugly old tree and everyone will finally understand that I'm the boss of Mouse Island! Mey Madame Noy"

But at that moment, Benjamin pulled the sleeve of my jacket.

"Uncle, it's not over yet!" he squeaked. He handed me two coins.

"I found them at the bottom of my backpack," he squeaked. "They must have



come out of my piggy bank!"

sold!

I grabbed the coins, turned toward the

"Is it too late? I would like to bid two more pennies! One more penny than Madame No's offer!"

The auctioneer nodded The temporary that the boss!

The auctioneer nodded. Then he turned to **Madame No**.

But she was **shrieking** and **celebrating** so loudly, she hadn't heard my **offer!** And

she couldn't hear the auctioneer,

either. He asked one more time if there were any last bids.

"One...two...three...
Sold to Geronimo Stilton!" the auctioneer cried.

Wait, stop!



"STILTON JUST WON!" the audience shouted happily.

"Yay! Hooray for Geronimo Stilton. Hooray for the GREAT OAK TREE!"

Suddenly, Madame No realized that she had missed something.

"Wait, stop!" she squeaked. "What's going on?! We have to do it again!"

"I'm sorry, Madame No," the auctioneer replied, shaking his snout. "Mr. Stilton won the auction, fair and SQUARE."

Yes, I had **WON**, and we had saved the Great Oak Tree!





Since then, every year on **December**21, the entire Stilton family hosts a
faburnouse party right at the
foot of the Great Oak Tree.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

We celebrate how we managed to join forces to **Save** the Great Oak. We did it together, just like one big family!

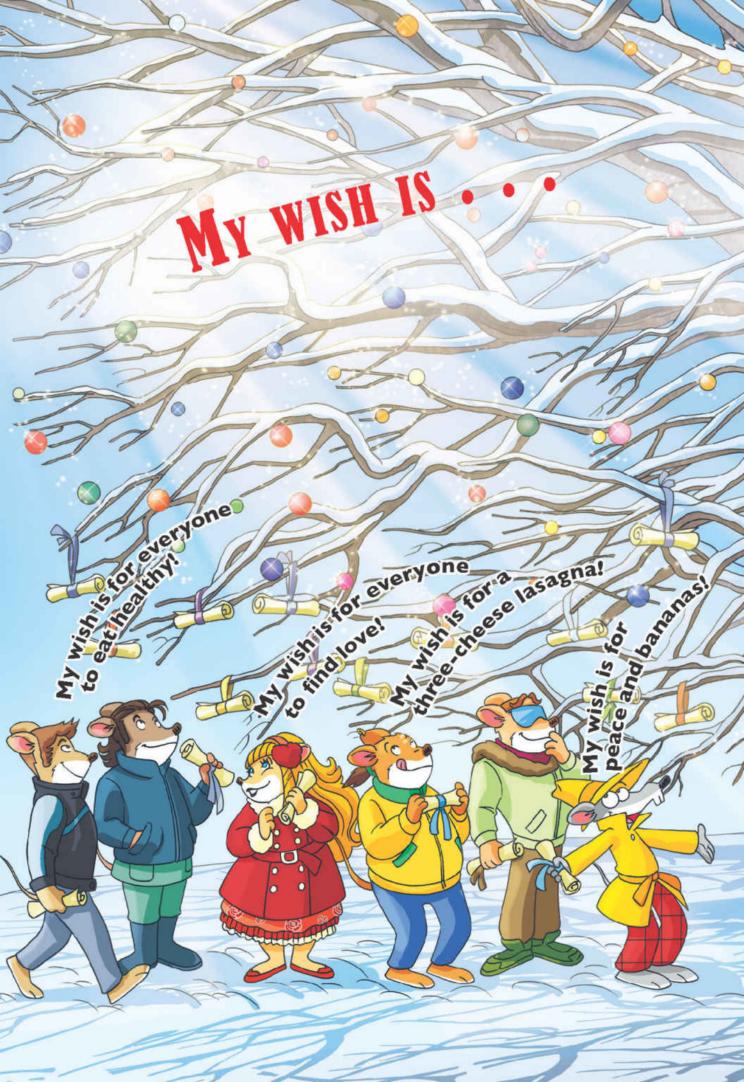
And every year, in memory of Grant Gentlemouse and his bride, we hang pieces of paper from the branches of the oak tree. A wish is written on each piece of paper.

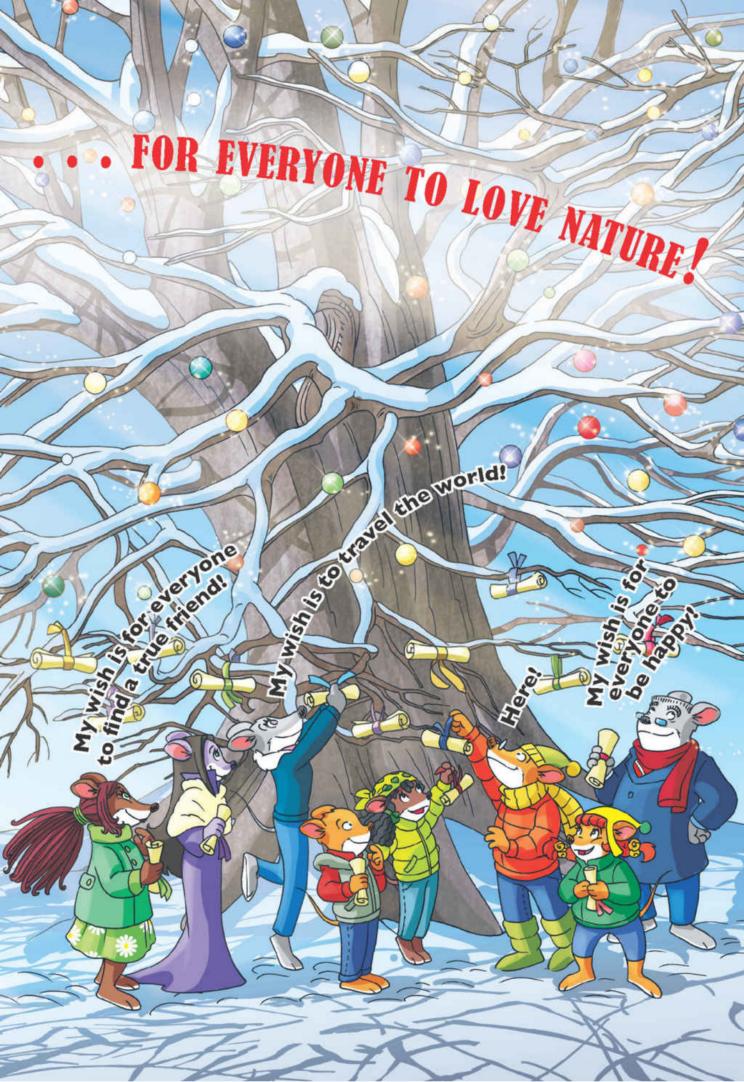
Would you like to know mine? Each year, it's the same — that we can all live together

in **PEACE** and **harmony**, with respect for **one another** and for **nature**! It's a truly **mouserific** wish, isn't it? Together, we can make it come true, or my name isn't **Stilton**, **Sevenimo Stilton**!

Good-bye until next time, my dear readers!





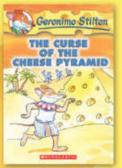




Be sure to read all my fabumouse adventures!



#1 Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye



#2 The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid



#3 Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House



#4 I'm Too Fond of My Fur!



#5 Four Mice Deep in the Jungle



#6 Paws Off, Cheddarface!



#7 Red Pizzas for a Blue Count



#8 Attack of the Bandit Cats



#9 A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo



#10 All Because of a Cup of Coffee



#11 It's Halloween, You 'Fraidy Mouse!



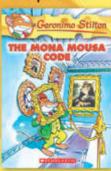
#12 Merry Christmas, Geronimo!



#13 The Phantom of the Subway



#14 The Temple of the Ruby of Fire



#15 The Mona Mousa Code



#16 A Cheese-Colored Camper



#17 Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton!



#18 Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands



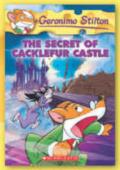
#19 My Name Is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton



#20 Surf's Up, Geronimo!



#21 The Wild, Wild West



#22 The Secret
of Cacklefur Castle



A Christmas Tale



#23 Valentine's Day Disaster



#24 Field Trip to Niagara Falls



#25 The Search for Sunken Treasure



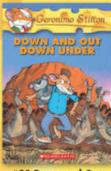
#26 The Munnny with No Name



#27 The Christmas Toy Factory



#28 Wedding Crasher



#29 Down and Out Down Under



#30 The Mouse Island Marathon



#31 The Mysterious Cheese Thief



Christmas Catastrophe



#32 Valley of the Giant Skeletons



#33 Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery



#34 Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent



#35 A Very Merry Christmas



#36 Geronimo's Valentine



#37 The Race Across America



#38 A Fabumouse School Adventure



#39 Singing Sensation



#40 The Karate Mouse



#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Thief



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!



#44 The Giant Diamond Robbery



#45 Save the White Whale!



#46 The Haunted Castle



#47 Run for the Hills, Geronimo!



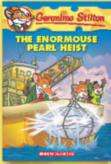
#48 The Mystery in Venice



#49 The Way of the Samurai



#50 This Hotel Is Haunted!



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist



#52 Mouse in Space!



#53 Rumble in the Jungle



#54 Get into Gear, Stilton!



#55 The Golden Statue Plot



#56 Flight of the Red Bandit



#57 The Stinky Cheese Vacation



#58 The Super Chef Contest



#59 Welcome to Moldy Manor



#60 The Treasure of Easter Island



#61 Mouse House Hunter



#62 Mouse Overboard!



#63 The Cheese Experiment



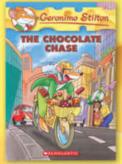
#64 Magical Mission



#65 Bollywood Burglary



#66 Operation: Secret Recipe



#67 The Chocolate Chase



#68 Cyber-Thief Showdown



#69 Hug a Tree, Geronimo



#70 The Phantom Bandit



Don't miss any of these exciting Thea Sisters adventures!



Thea Stilton and the Dragon's Code



Thea Stilton and the Mountain of Fire



Thea Stilton and the Ghost of the Shipwreck



Thea Stilton and the Secret City



Thea Stilton and the Mystery in Paris



Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure



Thea Stilton and the Star Castaways



Thea Stilton: Big Trouble in the Big Apple



Thea Stilton and the



Thea Stilton and the Secret of the Old Castle



Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab Hunt



Thea Stilton and the Prince's Emerald



Thea Stilton and the Mystery on the Orient Express



Thea Stilton and the Dancing Shadows



Thea Stilton and the Legend of the Fire Flowers



Thea Stilton and the Spanish Dance Mission



Thea Stilton and the Journey to the Lion's Den



Thea Stilton and the Great Tulip Heist



Thea Stilton and the Chocolate Sabotage



Thea Stilton and the Missing Myth



Thea Stilton and the Lost Letters



Thea Stilton and the Tropical Treasure



Thea Stilton and the Hollywood Hoax



Thea Stilton and the Madagascar Madness



Thea Stilton and the Frozen Fiasco



Thea Stilton and the Venice Masquerade

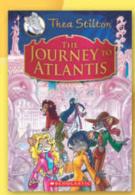


Thea Stilton and the Niagara Splash



Thea Stilton and the Riddle of the Ruins

And check out my fabumouse special editions!



Thea Stilton: The Journey to Atlantis



THEA STILTON: THE SECRET OF THE FAIRIES



Thea Stilton: The Secret of the Snow



THEA STILTON: THE CLOUD CASTLE



THEA STILTON: THE TREASURE OF THE SEA



THE LAND OF FLOWERS



THEA STILTON: THE SECRET OF THE CRYSTAL FAIRIES



Don't miss any of my special edition adventures!



THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY

HE SEARCH FOR



THE QUEST FOR PARADISE: THE RETURN TO THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE AMAZING VOYAGE: THE THIRD ADVENTURE

IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY

Geronimo Stilton

ESTIN

SUDVICE (THE PHOENIX

OF DESTINY:

AN EPIC KINGDOM OF

FANTASY ADVENTURE



PROPHIEC

MAGIC: THE EIGHTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE VOLCANO OF FIRE: THE FIFTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM

OF FANTASY



IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



CHARMS: THE SEVENTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM





WAND: THE NINTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



SECRETS: THE TENTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE DRAGON OF FORTUNE: AN EPIC KINGDOM OF **FANTASY ADVENTURE**



THE JOURNEY Through Time



BACK IN TIME: THE SECOND JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



THE RACE AGAINST TIME: THE THIRD JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



LOST IN TIME: THE FOURTH JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



NO TIME TO LOSE: THE FIFTH JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



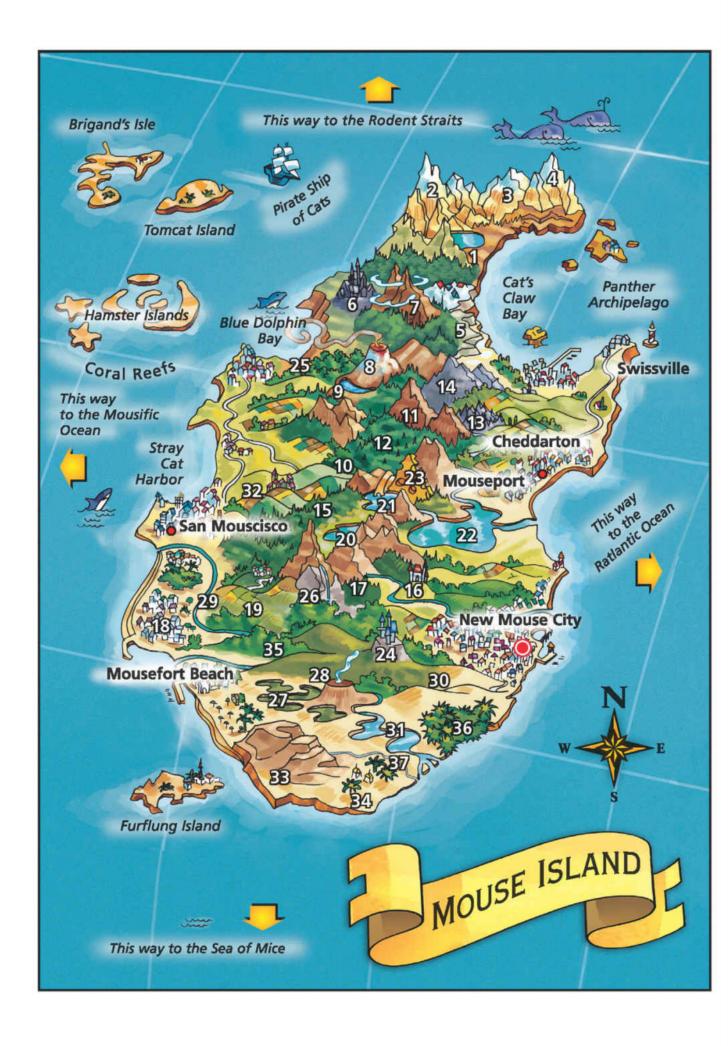
Born in New Mouse City, Mouse Island, **GERONIMO STILTON** is Rattus Emeritus of Mousomorphic Literature and of Neo-Ratonic Comparative Philosophy. For the past twenty years, he has been

running *The Rodent's Gazette*, New Mouse City's most widely read daily newspaper.

Stilton was awarded the Ratitzer Prize for his scoops on *The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid* and *The Search for Sunken Treasure*. He has also received the Andersen 2000 Prize for Personality of the Year. One of his bestsellers won the 2002 eBook Award for world's best ratlings' electronic book. His works have been published all over the globe.

In his spare time, Mr. Stilton collects antique cheese rinds and plays golf. But what he most enjoys is telling stories to his nephew Benjamin.

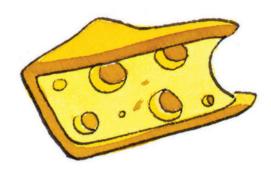


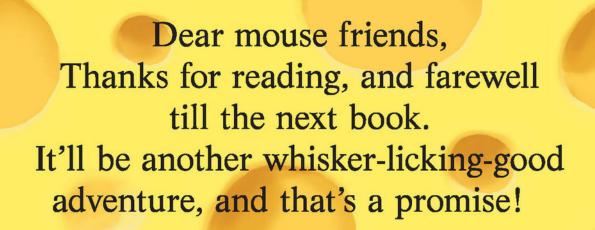


Map of Mouse Island

- 1. Big Ice Lake
- 2. Frozen Fur Peak
- 3. Slippervslopes Glacier
- 4. Coldcreeps Peak
- 5. Ratzikistan
- 6. Transratania
- 7. Mount Vamp
- 8. Roastedrat Volcano
- 9. Brimstone Lake
- 10. Poopedcat Pass
- 11. Stinko Peak
- 12. Dark Forest
- 13. Vain Vampires Valley
- 14. Goose Bumps Gorge
- 15. The Shadow Line Pass
- 16. Penny Pincher Castle
- 17. Nature Reserve Park
- 18. Las Ratayas Marinas
- 19. Fossil Forest
- 20. Lake Lake

- 21. Lake Lakelake
- 22. Lake Lakelakelake
- 23. Cheddar Crag
- 24. Cannycat Castle
- 25. Valley of the Giant Sequoia
- 26. Cheddar Springs
- 27. Sulfurous Swamp
- 28. Old Reliable Geyser
- 29. Vole Vale
- 30. Ravingrat Ravine
- 31. Gnat Marshes
- 32. Munster Highlands
- 33. Mousehara Desert
- 34. Oasis of the Sweaty Camel
- 35. Cabbagehead Hill
- 36. Rattytrap Jungle
- 37. Rio Mosquito







Geronimo Stilton



GERONIMO STILTON



THEA



TRAP



BENJAMIN

Who is Geronimo Stilton?

That's me! I run a newspaper, but my true passion is writing adventure stories. Here in New Mouse City, the capital of Mouse Island, my books are all bestsellers! My stories are funny, fa-mouse-ly funny. They are whisker-licking-good tales, and that's a promise!

HUG A TREE, GERONIMO

I was looking for inspiration for my novel one afternoon and decided to take a bike ride through Mouse Island's countryside. Along the way, I discovered my aunt's old house was for sale. But a mysterious someone was looking to get their paws on the land first. Could I figure out who and save the house in time?

₩SCHOLASTIC



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